companies are evaluating the possibility of setting up overseas development centre in China with a view to address the needs of regional markets.

Export growth rate of Indian software

2043. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Software exports growth rate is expected to go down during the year 2001-2002 in comparison to the previous year;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) what arc the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No,.Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Down fall of Information Technology Sector

† 2044. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is **a** fact that India has been continuously lagging behind in the field of Information Technology; and

(b) if so, the action Government are taking to promote Information Technology?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Various incentives provided by the Government, to promote IT industry are given at Statement.

Statement

Incentives to IT Sector

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG) has been rationalised and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.